

## The University of Maine DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series

Cultural Affairs Committee

---

9-2-2008

# 2008-2009 Philosophy Colloquium Series

University of Maine- Department of Philosophy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ca-lectureseries>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

University of Maine- Department of Philosophy, "2008-2009 Philosophy Colloquium Series" (2008). *Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series*. 160.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ca-lectureseries/160>

This Grant Application is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

# CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## GRANT APPLICATION

I. Applicant/Organization: Department of Philosophy

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Jefferson White

b. Title: Professor

c. Campus Address (include Email and Telephone): The Maples, [jeff.white@maine.edu](mailto:jeff.white@maine.edu), 581-3863

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date(s):

The Department of Philosophy is seeking funding support from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund for its 2008-2009 Philosophy Colloquium Series. This series of public talks will provide the opportunity for students, faculty, and community members both within and beyond the Department of Philosophy to hear and discuss stimulating lectures on a wide range of topics that are relevant both to the core themes of the department's philosophy curriculum as well as to current issues of ethical, political, law, and philosophic import.

**Fall Series: Pragmatism Among the Founding Fathers and in Contemporary Medical Ethics**

October 16 Shane Ralston, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Maine  
"Ol' Ben Franklin, the Pragmatist? On the Philosophical Credentials of an American Founder"

December 4 Diana Raffman, Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto  
"How to Resolve the Problem of Vagueness in Language"

**Spring Series: Wittgenstein, International Law and Chinese Philosophy**

February 12 Daniel Cohen, Professor of Philosophy and Christian A. Johnson Professor of Integrative Liberal Learning, Colby College  
"Gods, Gadflies, and Bulldog Tenacity: In Defense of Closed-Mindedness"

March 19 Dennis Patterson, Board of Governors Professor, Rutgers University  
"The New Global Trading Order"

April 9 James Behuniak, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Colby College  
"Some Important Features of Chinese Philosophy"

IV. Budget Proposal Form must be attached.

Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of reports for any previous grant awards, including final budget and attendance figures.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO:

<mailto:wlegere@maine.edu>

For questions regarding the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, please contact Wanda Madden-Carr at 1-1516

\$1800  
Approved

## Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund Budget Proposal Form

Applicant/Organization: Department of Philosophy  
 Responsible Officer: Jefferson White  
 Event Title: 2008-2009 Philosophy Colloquium Series  
 Event Date: Five colloquia over the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters

Total Program Budget: 3,600.00  
 Amount Committed by Applicant Organization: 1,800.00  
 Total Amount Requested from Other Funding Sources: 00.00  
 Please List Sources & Amounts below:  
  
 Amount Requested from CA/DLS Committee: 1,800.00\*  
 Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales):                     

Budget Breakdown of Expenses and funds to be used:	CADLS	Other
<u>Shane Ralston (October 16)</u>		
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>0</u>
Lodging/Meals	\$ <u>          </u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>
<u>Mark Tschaepe (November 13)</u>		
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>200.00</u>
Lodging/Meals	\$ <u>          </u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Travel		\$ <u>800.00</u>
<u>Dan Cohen (February 12)</u>		
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Lodging/Meals	\$ <u>          </u>	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Travel		\$ <u>100.00</u>
<u>Dennis Patterson (March 19)</u>		
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ <u>1,000.00</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
Lodging/Meals	\$ <u>          </u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Travel	\$ <u>800.00</u>	\$ <u>          </u>
<u>Jim Behuniak (April 9)</u>		
Honoraria/Services (explain below)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>100.00</u>
Lodging/Meals	\$ <u>          </u>	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Travel		\$ <u>100.00</u>

\*\* The Department of Philosophy will provide in kind support for all printing and supply costs for the series.

Total Expenses from CA/DLS funds: \$ 1,800.00  
 Total Expenses from other funds: \$ 1,800.00  
 (These two totals should equal the "Total Program Budget" listed above)

\*These amounts should be identical and should not exceed 50% of the total program/event budget. Please note that CA/DLS funds may not be used for receptions and do not normally fund UM employee wages. If an award is granted based on this proposal, reimbursement of expenses will not exceed the total CA/DLS request and will be limited to the types of expenditures outlined above.

# *Cultural Affairs Committee*

*and*

*Distinguished Lecture Series*

*c/o Wanda Madden-Carr*

*201 Alumni Hall*

*University of Maine*

---

October 17, 2008

To: Jefferson White

From: Dorothy Croall & Dan Sandweiss, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee and Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives us great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, 2008-2009 Philosophy Colloquium Series, has been awarded \$1800.

Please contact Wanda Madden-Carr at 1-1516 to discuss the procedures in place for the submission of financial expenses related to this award at your earliest convenience.

The following acknowledgement is required on ALL promotional material: *This event was supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.*

Attached is a form for your use to summarize the benefits derived from this grant. This form should be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the event. Timely submission of your summary will be considered as part of any future funding requests.

The Cultural Affairs Committee members congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.

cc: Brenda Collamore

Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Grant Report  
Philosophy Colloquium Series  
2008-2009  
Final Report

Application Organization: Department of Philosophy  
Contact Name: Jefferson White  
Campus Address: The Maples  
Telephone: 581-3863  
E-mail: [Jeff.White@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Jeff.White@umit.maine.edu)

**Summary of Program:**

1. Shane Ralston  
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Maine  
“Ol’ Ben Franklin, the Pragmatist” On the Philosophical  
Credentials of an American Founder”  
  
Date: November 20, 2008  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Levinson Room, The Maples  
Attendance: 18
  
2. Robert B. Loudon  
Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern Maine  
“Language: Who/What Has It? (And Were Aristotle and Descartes  
Right?)”  
  
Date: December 4, 2008  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Levinson Room, The Maples  
Attendance: 28

3. Daniel Cohen  
Professor of Philosophy and Christian A. Johnson Professor of Integrative Liberal  
Learning, Colby College  
“Gods, Gadflies, and Bulldog Tenacity: In Praise of Closed-  
Mindedness”

Date: February 12, 2009  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Levinson Room, The Maples  
Attendance: 31

4. Dennis Patterson  
Board of Governors Professor, Rutgers School of Law  
“The New Global Trading Order: The Evolving State of the Future  
of Trade”

Date: March 19, 2009  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: 115 D. P. Corbett Hall  
Attendance: 48

5. Alphonso Lingis  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University  
“Contact”

Date: April 2  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location: 110 Little Hall  
Attendance: 62

**PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM  
THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 20, 2008  
4:00 P.M.  
THE LEVINSON ROOM  
MAPLES BUILDING**

The Philosophy Department, supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, will present a discussion of the following question:

**OL' BEN FRANKLIN, THE PRAGMATIST?  
On the Philosophical Credentials of an American Founder**

Speaker: Shane Ralston, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Maine.

Professor Ralston has generously supplied the following brief description of some of the background that informs his interest in the subject and some conclusions he will support in the talk.

*Was Benjamin Franklin the old John Dewey or the new Socrates? James Campbell takes the position that he was the old Dewey—or, at least, following the late H.S. Thayer, a “nascent” Deweyan pragmatist. Lorraine Pangle, among others, defends the view that Franklin’s thought and writings were distinctly Socratic. I would like to accomplish two objectives in this essay that might initially appear incompatible: one, to doubt whether the question is a good one and, two, to assume the question’s acceptability for the sake of exploring the claim that pragmatism is quintessentially American—or as Colin Koopman puts it, “a corollary to the experiment of American democracy.” If indeed philosophical pragmatism has its roots in the American experience, then we would expect to find a heavy deposit of pragmatist ideas in America’s formative experience, especially in the thinking of its Founders and revolutionaries, such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine and John Adams. While it is difficult to deny that Franklin’s ideas have philosophical significance, giving them a gloss based on the insights of more recent or older philosophical figures, such as John Dewey or Socrates, often involves reconstructing them for independent purposes. Still, if we accept the premise of the question, viz. that this American Founder possesses the philosophical credentials that would make him resemble one philosopher more than another, greater evidence can be found to support the conclusion that Franklin was the old Dewey, not the new Socrates. The upshot of the Dewey-Franklin comparison is that the claim that pragmatism is quintessentially American gains newfound traction. Furthermore, this claim has the resources to withstand a familiar criticism, namely, that pragmatism reflects philosophically shallow American values, such as practical know-how, pioneer-like ingenuity and the capitalist spirit.*

We invite all to join the department and students for reflection and discussion on  
**Thursday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

# PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday

DECEMBER 4, 2008

4:00 p.m.

Levinson Room, The Maples

## Language: Who/What Has It? (And Were Aristotle and Descartes Right?)

Robert B. Loudon

University of Southern Maine

### *Abstract*

For many centuries, philosophers and scientists have repeatedly pointed to the faculty of language as one of the primary differentia between humans and nonhumans. But is the longstanding claim that language is a peculiarly human phenomenon merely part of the fantasy of human exceptionalism, a fantasy fuelled by our own narcissism? Are humans simply afraid to acknowledge their joint kinship with animals and machines? In recent years more and more people have become convinced that the answer is yes. In my paper I pursue (with considerable help from Aristotle and Descartes) the counter-strategy of defending human exceptionalism. Humans *are* different from both animals and machines, and the particular ways in which we use language are one indication of this difference.

WE INVITE ALL TO JOIN THE DEPARTMENT AND STUDENTS FOR  
REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.



## PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday, February 12, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Levinson Room, The Maples

The Philosophy Department, supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, will present a discussion of the following topic:

### Gods, Gadflies, and Bulldog Tenacity: In Praise of Closed-Mindedness

**Speaker: Daniel H. Cohen**, Professor of Philosophy and Christian A. Johnson  
Professor of Integrative Liberal Learning, Colby College, Waterville, Maine

Professor Cohen has generously supplied the following abstract of his talk:

*An impressive chorus of supporters sings the praises of open-mindedness. Educators, critical thinkers, scientists, all join in the polyphonic harmony in which moral philosophers laud it as politic, political theorists pronounce it justified, and epistemologists count it a virtue. At the risk of adding a dissonant note, we'd like to speak on behalf of being closed-minded.*

*We offer three arguments for closed-mindedness. Ironically, they are grounded in the work of three philosophers, each of whom is an exemplar of open-mindedness: Donald Davidson, Gilbert Harman, and Paul Feyerabend. First, when it comes to beliefs, global fallibilism is consistent with local dogmatism, and some measure of local dogmatism is the right default strategy for belief management. Second, the general imperative to be open-minded can be counter-productive to specific epistemic projects and too vague to serve as a useful epistemological heuristic. And third, despite the traditional emphasis on "S knows that p" as the canonical subject of epistemological analysis, we are not pure, isolated epistemic agents. We have other cognitive goals besides the narrowly epistemic, which we may pursue in joint endeavors. The effective virtues of a research team need not be instantiated in each member. An uneven distribution of belief-tenacity can be to everyone's cognitive advantage. Put less politely, we need our pig-head colleagues!*

*The pattern emerging from these arguments reveals the concept of "cognitive achievements," but the thread holding them together is the concept of intellectual virtues, for it is the virtues - including closed-mindedness at times - that make those achievements possible.*

**We invite all to join the department and students for reflection and discussion.**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

**115 D. P. Corbett**  
**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

The Philosophy Department, supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, will present a discussion of the following topic:

**The New Global Trading Order:  
The Evolving State and  
the Future of Trade**

**Speaker: Dennis Patterson**

**Board of Governors Professor, Rutgers School of Law.**

**Abstract:**

*The international institutions that have governed global trade since the end of World War II have lost their effectiveness. Global trade governance is fractured. The need for new institutions is obvious and, yet, few proposals seem to be on offer. The stubborn problem of the inequality gap between the developing nations and the nations of the first world remain a centerpiece of the international agenda. Current battles over trade policy are both intense and serious, for a great deal is at stake. the key to understanding the global trading order lies in uncovering the relationship between trade and the State. A central aspect of this understanding is that the victors of war or states that otherwise dominate the strategic playing field have the opportunity to establish a trade system that accords with their Statecraft. The trade order between states is connected to a larger order of states, an order we identify as "constitutional." The current trade order is predicated on policies and practices that were the product of a global trading order of nation-states. The society of states is now entering a period beyond the nation-state. A new form of the State - the post-modern - State is evolving. We advance concrete policy proposals for meeting the needs of the 21st century global trading order. We propose a new institution - The Trade Council - to effect these ideas and to address continuing problems of the global trading order.*